

and its talented singers. Their usual performance at the White House this Christmas season will certainly be missed. May they soon return to Washington, DC and the White House Christmas celebrations of future years, and may they continue to serve as role models for the young people of America.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO CLARIFY TAX TREATMENT OF CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL ESCROW ACCOUNTS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from California, Mr. BECERRA, together with my colleagues, Mr. BOEHLERT from New York and Mr. COYNE from Pennsylvania, in introducing a bill intended to clarify the tax treatment of certain environmental escrow accounts. The provisions in the bill would encourage prompt and efficient settlements with the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") for the clean-up of hazardous waste sites.

Currently, there is some uncertainty in the tax treatment of certain "settlement funds" which are, in effect, controlled by the EPA, in their role of resolving claims under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 ("CERCLA"). This uncertainty may prevent taxpayers from entering into prompt settlements with the EPA for the cleanup of Superfund hazardous waste sites and reduce the ultimate amount of funds available for cleanup of such sites.

Under our bill, if certain conditions are met, the EPA (U.S. government) will be considered the beneficial owner of funds set aside in an environmental settlement fund account. These conditions include the fund being: (1) established pursuant to a consent decree; (2) created for the receipt of settlement payments for the sole purpose of resolving claims under CERCLA; (3) controlled (in terms of expenditures of contributions and earnings thereon) by the government or an agency or instrumentality thereof; and (4) upon termination, disbursed to the government or an agency or instrumentality thereof (e.g., the EPA). If such conditions are met, the EPA will be considered the beneficial owner of the escrow account for tax purposes and the account will not be considered a grantor trust for purposes of Sections 468B, and 671-677 of the Internal Revenue Code.

These escrow accounts, which are established under court consent decrees, are a necessary tool to enable the EPA to carry out its responsibilities and resolve or satisfy claims under CERCLA. Under these types of consent decrees, the EPA should be considered the owner of such funds for Federal tax purposes.

Due to the uncertainty as to the proper Federal income tax treatment of such government-controlled funds, taxpayers may be hesitant to promptly resolve their claims under CERCLA by contributing to the settlement funds. One of the underlying purposes of CERCLA is to en-

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sure prompt and efficient cleanup of Superfund hazardous waste sites. This goal is being frustrated by the existing uncertainty in the tax laws.

The bill resolves these uncertainties and expedites the cleanup of Superfund hazardous waste sites by treating these escrow accounts as being beneficially owned by the U.S. government and not subject to tax. We urge our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

AMONG MY SOUVENIRS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article by Kay Blythe Tracy, Ph.D.:

Americans now are inspired and united by every musical note of "God Bless America." But back in the sixties, we were a nation in discord, singing many different tunes. Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote songs of Camelot, while Pete Seeger asked, "Where have all the young men gone?"

The story I'm going to tell you today is about what happened to one of those young men. This story began in the sixties, when POW/MIA bracelets were conceived as a way to remember missing or captive American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia. Traditionally, a POW/MIA bracelet is worn until the man named on the bracelet is accounted for, whether it be 30 days or 35 years.

I bought my bracelet in 1970 for \$2.50. It has, "Lt. Col. Samuel Johnson, April 16, 1966" engraved on it. I wore the bracelet faithfully for many years, but eventually took it off and put it away. But every time I opened my jewelry box, I saw it. And every time I saw it, I was saddened, and I thought of Lt. Col. Johnson, and I said a little prayer.

The bracelet led to my first foray into the wonderful world of e-Bay, the on-line auction service, where I listed it for sale. I thought that anyone who would buy it would treasure it and it would be out of my sight, out of my mind. To my surprise, bidding on the bracelet was brisk.

On the seventh, and final, day of the auction, my husband George asked me if I knew what had happened to Col. Johnson. "No," I replied. "I never wanted to know." But George went to the Internet, and returned with information. Of the more than twenty-five hundred POWs, and the three to six thousand MIAs, only 591 men returned. My brother did not. After spending seven years as a prisoner of war, Sam Johnson did.

I was so happy I cried.

When I contacted Congressman Johnson's office, his aide, McCall Cameron, told me that he and Mrs. Johnson were on vacation with their grandchildren.

Grandchildren! More tears.

Congressman Johnson said he would very much like to have his bracelet. So, I cancelled the e-Bay auction, and today I am returning this souvenir. In the words of Randy Sparks, "A million tomorrows will all pass away, ere I forget all the joy that is mine today."

And in my own words, I say to Sam, finally, "Welcome home."

To Dr. Tracy, I say, "Thank you. We will never forget. God bless you."

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF SUE GALBREATH-SLY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Principal Sue Galbreath-Sly. She is set to retire at the end of this academic year from a long and distinguished life in the field of education. Currently serving in her eighth year as principal of the Julia Baldwin Elementary School, Mrs. Sly, as the students call her, started teaching in 1960. Nearly forty-two years later, Mrs. Sly has served as an educator in three states—Kentucky, Ohio, and California—at both the elementary and secondary levels, in the classroom and as an administrator.

Sue Galbreath-Sly began her career as a teacher in Kentucky in 1960, and the spirit of teaching has remained strong in her to this day. Visiting the principal's office at Baldwin Elementary today, one might wonder if it is a classroom because it is always filled with students seeking Mrs. Sly's guidance and friendship. She successfully presents herself to her students as just another teacher; however, she is anything but "just another teacher." Rather, she is the best kind of teacher, seeing her educational mission as a year-round job—spending weekends chaperoning students to various competitions, fairs, and conferences and recruiting students for summer enrichment programs.

Throughout her long career as an educator, Mrs. Sly has been recognized for her excellence not only by her students, but also by her fellow professionals. She has received numerous awards, both as a teacher and a principal. In fact, just last year, her school won the 2000 California Distinguished School Award, a true testament to her exceptional stewardship.

Not only does Mrs. Sly help develop and educate our youth, but she also works to develop her fellow educators. For example, she currently serves as a mentor for new principals and an advisor to the teacher credentialing program. She is also active in community outreach, expressing her philosophy eloquently: "We must expand the four walls of our school site and guide children to take advantage of every learning opportunity." As a teacher at Baldwin Elementary, my wife, Jeanne, has benefited from Mrs. Sly's holistic approach to education. As a fellow long-time educator myself, I express my deep respect and sincere admiration for Sue Galbreath-Sly and her life's work.

LT. GEN. JOHN M. PICKLER, U.S. ARMY

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I attended the retirement parade for Lieutenant General John Pickler. It was a sad day for the Army as they were losing one of their best to the retired